

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Wilderness

Objective Number

Wi-1

Objective: Wi-1

Protect wilderness characteristics of all intensive study areas from surface disturbance unless and until they are eliminated through the inventory process. Continue this protection for areas designated Wilderness Study Areas as a result of the inventory process.

Rationale:

All areas that presently require intensive inventory should be protected in such a manner so as not to jeopardize their wilderness qualities. This requirement is mandated by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. These areas are in fact de facto wilderness until eliminated through the inventory and public comment periods. Those areas that become WSAs will further be protected until Congress designates or eliminates them. (Refer to URA III/ MFP I Overlay and listing under .47 Wilderness Management of the Sonoma/Gerlach URA III.)

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Wilderness 1.1

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

MFP | Recommendation: Wi 1.1

Develop brochures, informational pamphlets, presentations and signs informing the general public of the status of wilderness study areas within Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area.

Rationale:

Until all areas have been officially designated Wilderness Areas it will be necessary to keep the general public well informed of the status of WSAs in the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area. Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires that all areas identified as having wilderness qualities will be protected as if they were wilderness areas. To do this satisfactorily the general public needs to be kept well informed of what areas are being considered and what is permitted in these areas.

Support:

Support will be needed from the State and District Public Affairs Offices, the district Wilderness team, Operations, and sign shop to develop the needed public information.

Law Enforcement will also be needed to help with public information.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	
Sonoma-Gerlach	
Activity	
Wilderness 1.2	
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

Recommendation: Wi 1.2

MFP I

All activities within Intensive and Wilderness Study Areas Under Wilderness Review will be in accordance with the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines.

Rationale:

The Interim Management Policy and Guidelines were mandated by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The purpose of the policy and guidelines is to guide BLM staff in the specific decisions that arise everyday in the management of lands under wilderness review.

Under Interim Management Policy and Guidelines, lands under wilderness review must be managed so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness by preventing unnecessary or undue degradation. Also, recognize and manage for valid existing rights and grandfathered operations of grazing, mining, and mineral leases so as to assure their continuation in the same manner and degree as of October 21, 1976.

Support:

Support is covered under the Wilderness Interim Management Guidelines for Wild horses, Fire, Range and Mineral Management.

At the time Wilderness Study Areas are designated, support archeological, recreational (VRM designations), fisheries, wildlife, USGS, and Bureau of Mines for mineral and cadastral surveys will be needed for final MFP evaluations in determining suitability or nonsuitability of these areas for wilderness. Law enforcement will be needed to help with public information, protection of WSAs and the enforcement of the Interim Management Guidelines.

AMENDMENT

Buffalo Hills Planning Unit Existing Situation - URA Step 3/MFP I

7-15-81

47 Wilderness Management

Wilderness Study Areas

Unit Number		Original WSA Acres	WSA Acres Deleted Due to Protests	Final WSA Acres
NV-020-006A	East Fork High Rock Canyon <u>a/</u>	3,960		3,960
NV-020-007	High Rock Lake	62,527	1,492	61,035
NV-020-008	Little High Rock Canyon <u>a/</u>	10,130		10,130
NV-020-012	Poodle Mountain <u>a/</u>	109,898	83	109,815
NV-020-014	Fox Mountain Range	72,347	1,781	70,566
NV-020-019	Calico Mountains	65,861	371	65,490
NV-020-621	Pahute Peak <u>b/</u>	27,456		27,456
NV-020-622	North Black Rock Range <u>b/</u>	25,945		25,945
TOTALS		378,124	3,727	374,397

a/ Study Areas that are contiguous with the Susanville, California District (Only acreage administered by Winnemucca District given).

b/ Areas contiguous with Paradise-Denio Resource Area. Acreage indicated is for Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area only.

NV-020-620P	Black Rock Desert	124,929	124,929
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Area was not recommended for Wilderness Study Area. Being appealed to Interior Board of Land Appeals.

* The Wilderness Study for Units NV-020-006A and 008 will be conducted by the Susanville, California District. Both units are located within the Winnemucca and Susanville Districts.

AMENDMENT

Yonoma Planning Unit Existing Situation - URA Step 3/MFP I

7/15/81

.47 Wilderness Management

A. Wilderness Study Areas

Unit Number	Study Area	Original WSA Acres	WSA Acres Deleted Due To Protests	Final WSA Acres
NV-020-406	P&Q Tobins	21,952	1,651	20,301
NV-030-108	Augusta Mountains <u>a/</u>	27,400		27,400
TOTAL		49,352	1,651	47,701

a/ Study Area that is contiguous with the Battle Mountain and Carson City Districts (Only acreage administered by Winnemucca District given).

NV-020-436 Granite Mountain 19,949 19,949

Area was not recommended for a Wilderness Study Area. Is being appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

* Wilderness Study for Unit NV-030-108 will be conducted by the Winnemucca District. The entire unit is located within the Battle Mountain, Winnemucca, and Carson City Districts.

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Name (MFP)
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Activity
Wilderness
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W.1 9/1/81

RECOMMENDATION

MFP I

Recommend for Wilderness designation those units and acreages which are designed for Wilderness Study by the Winnemucca District. Within the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area.

<u>UNIT NUMBER</u>	<u>STUDY AREA</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>
NV-020-007	High Rock Lake	61,035
NV-020-012	Poodle Mountain	127,746
NV-020-014	Fox Mountain Range	70,566
NV-020-019	Calico Mountains	65,490
NV-020-200	Selenite Mountains	30,602
NV-020-201	Mount Limbo	22,456
NV-020-406	Tobins	20,301
NV-030-108	Augusta Mountains	93,200
NV-020-621	Pahute Peak	27,456
NV-020-622	North Black Rock Range	25,945

RATIONALE

The Wilderness Inventory identified these areas (WSAs) which from a purely wilderness criteria are wilderness. They are recommended for wilderness designation.

This recommendation when compared to other activity recommendations (complimentary and conflicting uses are analyzed), will result in a refined recommendation by the Area Manager which will give wilderness use due consideration.

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Activity

Wilderness

Objective Number

W.1 9/1/81

SUPPORT

Support is covered under the Wilderness Interim Management Guidelines for all resource activities (wild horses, fire, range, minerals, geothermal, etc.) in order to protect the wilderness values and characteristics of each area.

COMMENT

The recommendation of the above Wilderness Study Areas for wilderness designation constitutes the "all wilderness" alternative for the Winnemucca District Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement.

AMENDMENT

Wing Planning Unit Existing Situation - URA Step 3/MFP I

7/15/81

.47 Wilderness Management

A. Wilderness Study Areas

Unit Number		Original WSA Acres	WSA Acres Deleted Due To Protests	Final WSA Acres
NV-020-200	Selenite Mountain	31,920	1,318	30,602
NV-020-201	Mount Limbo	24,126	1,670	22,456
TOTAL		56,046	2,988	53,058

WSA-014 Fox Mountain Range1. Conflict Analysis

Oil and gas application (#34139) totaling 2,376 acres occur in this WSA.

One geothermal lease (#9628) has been issued (on the north end of the WSA), 1,424 acres in the WSA and an additional 1,187 acres are under geothermal lease application. Several geothermal simultaneous areas totaling 3,278 acres are located on the north end of this WSA.

A major right-of-way/transportation corridor forms the northeast and western boundary of the WSA.

Nearly the entire WSA is within the Cottonwood Mining District with, to date, primarily two areas showing some evidence of past mining activity. The mined area to the north has been excluded from the WSA boundary. The minerals of interest here were/are: copper, lead, silver, zinc, and antimony with all but silver being classified as "strategic and critical" minerals.

On the southwestern side of the WSA mining has occurred in Wild Horse Canyon--the minerals involved here are gold, silver, and the strategic and critical minerals copper and nickel.

The preliminary geochemical mineral survey done to evaluate the WSA mineral potential lists the central Fox Range as having the highest mineral potential (rated #1 on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being high mineral development potential and 10 being without economic mineral value). The southern Fox Range rated as #2 on this same scale.

The eastern boundary near the center of the WSA follows approximately 3 1/2 miles of private land.

Several Desert Land Entry applications are within the WSA boundary near farmed private property.

Six isolated 40 acre parcels are scattered along the mountain range within the WSA boundary.

The unit has cherry-stem roads around 160 acres of private land at the mouth of Wild Horse Canyon then one mile up the canyon the boundary again surrounds 320 acres of private land and 160 acres of public land.

On the western side of Rodeo Creek Canyon the boundary again surrounds a 160 acre parcel of private land.

Cherry-stem roads intrude into this WSA unit at Cottonwood Canyon (5 miles), Rodeo Creek (7 miles), Rattlesnake (3 1/2 miles), and Wild Horse Canyon (6 miles).

The area contains 10 miles of fence, 4 developed BLM water projects, and 4 non-BLM water developments.

There is a conflict with the MFP III decision which allows geothermal/oil and gas leasing in this area.

2. Complements

Watershed - Wildlife Values.

3. Significance of MFP Recommendations and Present Uses for WSA 014

The oil and gas/geothermal leasing MFP recommendation as well as recommendations not limiting strategic and critical mineral development would significantly conflict with wilderness values.

Presently the area is used for livestock grazing. The WSA includes a portion of the Rodeo Creek Allotment and all of the Pole Canyon Allotment.

The major portion of the Fox Mountain Herd Use Area is in this WSA.

The area is wildlife habitat for deer and antelope also some sage grouse and chukar are found within the unit.

The San Emidio Desert supports some agriculture and several DLE applications have been received. These applications, if approved, would be an expansion of existing farming operations.

Minimal mining has occurred with only two operations being worked recently (both operations amounted to violations of the 3802 regulations).

4. Obvious Wilderness Values Present

A. Size

75,562 total acres are within the WSA boundary--the area obviously qualifies as to wilderness size requirements of greater than 5,000 acres.

B. Naturalness

The area is basically natural. A few BLM and non-BLM water/fence projects occur within the unit.

Some mining activity has occurred on both the east and west sides of the mountain range. A portion, "an island," within the WSA has been excluded due to the unnaturalness signs of past mining activity.

On the east side the agricultural fields adjacent to this WSA are noticeably distracting to the visitor's sense of naturalness, as does the transmission line along the unit's northeastern boundary.

To the west the Western Pacific Railroad tracks are "noticeable" as they parallel the entire length of this unit's western boundary.

The overall impression of the unit is, however, natural with the work of man within the unit substantially unnoticeable.

C. Outstanding Opportunities for

1. Solitude

Except for the intrusions listed above the opportunities for solitude do exist within the unit.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area contains recreation opportunities similar to the other mountain ranges in the Resource Area.

There are no particularly unusual recreational draws/attractions, or desirable destinations within the WSA.

Present recreational use of the area is unknown but it is assumed to be very light.

D. Supplemental Values

No unusual or unique supplementary values are found in this WSA.

4. Manageability

The area is primarily manageable as wilderness as the boundaries are presently drawn, with the exception of the northern 1/3 of the Fox Range which has considerable acreage under oil and gas geothermal lease application and other portions currently under geothermal lease or geo-sims.

Should these applications/leases be developed the northern portion of the range would be unmanageable as wilderness.

5. MFP II Recommendation

Drop WSA 014 Fox Mountain Range from further wilderness consideration.

A. Rationale

The recommendation to drop WSA 014 from further wilderness is made for the following reasons:

1. The area rated extremely high on the "Barenger" preliminary minerals report which indicates that this area has a high potential for future mineral development.
2. There has been past geothermal exploration activity on the north end of the WSA and to the west of the area. The potential for future development appears to be high. This will require powerlines and other developments that will influence the area's naturalness.
3. There are major right-of-way corridors on the northeast and western end of the WSA. The western states corridor study also identifies a future corridor that will go across the northern end of the WSA. These are outside sights that will influence the area.
4. There is a large amount of private land within the WSA. These private inholdings and the access needed to them make the area unmanageable as wilderness.
5. A portion of the area appears to have agricultural potential as there are DLE applications presently on file in the district office on the area.
6. The area presently has 434 wild horses. A wild horse roundup was conducted in the area in 1980. During this roundup it was necessary to set up traps inside the WSA in order to gather the horses. The area is so large that the horses cannot be driven to the edges to be gathered. Trap sites inside the area will require that roads be maintained so that the horses can be transported from the traps. Wild horses are going to be maintained and protected in the area so the facilities for their management will be necessary.

WSA Selenite Mountain (200) and Mt. Limbo (201)1. Conflict Analysis

- 201 - Hooker Mining District in extreme north end of 201 and based on existing information there is an undiscovered subeconomic deposit of tungsten (strategic and critical) and molybdenum on the northern portion of this WSA.

Several old prospects are located in the southern portion of 201. The mineral involved is unknown.

- 200 - A Free Use Permit material site for sand and gravel to Washoe County has been issued in the southwest corner (total 40 acres). One mineral patent has been issued on the northwest end of the WSA. The mineral in question was assumed to be copper and tungsten.

One other prospect is located in the northeast corner of the WSA with an approximate two mile way leading to this prospect.

In WSA 200 portions of geothermal application lease number N-11692 intrudes into the WSA boundary amounting to 415 acres.

The Gerlach KGRA borders this WSA (200) on the southwestern edge.

WSA 201 has geothermal lease applications adjacent to it's northwestern edge and one small portion of lease application adjacent to the unit on the north in the vicinity of Jenney Creek.

Major utility corridors have been identified on the western boundary of both WSAs.

Also along the north side of WSA 200 a major existing road corridor and potential electrical transmission corridor forms the northern body of WSA 200. The Western Pacific Railroad parallels the northern end of WSA 200.

Private land amounting to 80 acres in 201 and approximately 160 acres in unit 200 are within the WSA boundaries. Existing ways provide access to these areas.

2. Obvious Wilderness Values - WSA 200A. Size

The area obviously qualifies as meeting the 500 acres wilderness minimum--31,900 acres.

B. Outstanding Opportunities

1. Solitude

The inventory phase identified "many secluded spots" within the unit with outstanding opportunities for solitude, however in considering the outside sights and sounds influences on this unit it is apparent that the community of Empire and the U.S. Gypsum plant would be visible throughout the entire southwestern portion of the unit and also Gerlach, Highway 34, and the trains along the Western Pacific track would be highly visible from the crest of the range westward in the center and northern portion of the unit. Overall these outside sights would substantially affect the visitor's opportunities for solitude and the sense of naturalness of this unit.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The inventory phase noted "significant points of interest and challenges offering outstanding opportunities for hiking, riding, backpacking, sightseeing, and camping."

These values do exist as opportunities, however existing recreation data does not support that present demand or use of the area for these unconfined recreation uses occur on this unit.

The same opportunities and kinds of opportunities are common to nearly all the mountain ranges in the resource area.

C. Supplemental Values

The intensive inventory states "The unit's unique geologic features provide scientific, scenic, and educational values." The Unit Resource Analysis has not indicated that any unusual geologic features are present.

D. Manageability

From a manageability standpoint WSA 200 does not have any significant problems with the one possible exception of vehicle access along the alluvial fan on the north and western edge of the unit. The topography would probably eliminate any vehicle access above the 4,200' to 4,500' contour and therefore the unit boundary should probably be adjusted to that point if a wilderness recommendation was to be made on this unit.

Obvious Wilderness Values - WSA 201

A. Size

The unit obviously qualifies as being 5,000 acres or greater.

B. Outstanding Opportunities

1. Solitude

Nevada State Highway 34 and a major powerline are parallel to the western boundary of unit 201. A viewer would have his opportunities for solitude and sense of naturalness adversely affected by these outside sights along the crest of the range westward.

Pershing County Road #323 forms the northern boundary of the unit and to the south BLM Road #2033 forms the southern boundary. Since these roads experience extremely light use the traffic on them would not have an adverse effect on the visitor's sense of naturalness or solitude in the unit. The unit, therefore, meets the solitude criteria when consideration of outside sights and sounds have been addressed.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The intensive inventory identified the recreation opportunities as "limitless" for hiking and backpacking, however, potable water and the unit's size would limit it's potential.

The area's long, narrow configuration lends its recreational values to short duration hikes or backpack pack trips. The granitic rock formations near the crest are potential attractions from a rock climbing, rugged hiking standpoint.

Our present knowledge of recreational use of the area has not substantiated that the area is being used above a minimal level for its primitive and unconfined recreation uses other than hunting.

C. Naturalness

The area has primarily been affected by the forces of nature. Several BLM spring developments, one well, and one corral exist within the WSA. Eight ways intrude into the eastern side of the WSA and several ways intrude from the west. However, these intrusions are substantially unnoticeable.

Outside influences on one's sense of naturalness have been addressed in the solitude section.

D. Supplemental Values

The area contains one wild horse and burro herd use area, one prehistoric rockshelter, year-round deer use, sage grouse, chukar, and quail habitat.

3. Manageability

The southern 1/3 of the unit is separated from the main unit by an existing way. Due to the configuration of the area to the south of this way and the terrain involved here, manageability of this portion would be difficult.

Most public comments were not in favor of wilderness with several exceptions, additionally 2,327 general comments were received stating both units meet the wilderness criteria. The livestock permittee who is also the landowner of the majority of the private land stated he was in favor of wilderness designation on both 200 and 201.

The majority of the comments against wilderness noted intrusions, i.e., existing ways, mineral values present and lack of solitude.

MFP II 4. Multiple Use Recommendation

200 - Drop WSA 200 from further wilderness consideration.

201 - Recommend WSA 201 Mount Limbo as wilderness with the following boundary adjustments.

1. Delete that portion of WSA 201 south of the way that starts in the SE1/4 Sec. 26, T. 29 N., R. 24 E, thence go southwesterly intersecting the western WSA boundary at a point located in the NE1/4 Sec. 16, T. 28 N., R. 24 E.

5. Rationale

200 - The outside sights and sounds of the surrounding communities, vehicle and railroad traffic would detract from the visitor's sense of naturalness and his opportunities for solitude. Conflicts with MFP III right-of-way corridor.

201 - The unit meets the wilderness criteria in the northern 2/3. Little or no conflicts exist; proximity to major population center; little or no manageability problems; outstanding opportunities for short duration dayhiking/rock climbing, hunting, and recreation activities.

WSA 406 P and 406 Q - Tobin Mountains1. Conflict AnalysisA. Conflicts

406 Q - approximately 4,000 acres have lease applications for oil and gas/geothermal (N-35214 covers 1/3 of west edge).

406 P - 240 acres have been applied for lease for oil and gas (N-34160 southeast edge).

406 P - There is 120 acres of private property inside WSA boundary.

406 Q - There is 120 acres of private property within WSA boundary.

406 Q - Has a mining district within it's boundary that is known to produce minerals that are listed as strategic and critical by the Federal Government.

406 P - Contains 2 1/4 miles of pipeline and two miles of fenceline.

406 Q - Contains 1 1/2 miles of fenceline.

406 P - Contains 1 1/4 miles of road into the private land in the northcentral portion of WSA.

406 Q - Contains 3 miles of road into the center of the unit.

Both WSA 406 P and 406 Q contain mining claims.

406 Q - Portions of this WSA are recommended for a firewood cutting area (vicinity of Cottonwood and Bushee Creeks).

Mt. Tobin Mining District infringes on the southern 1/2 of WSA 406 Q and it has been inferred (URA) that a strategic and critical mineral deposit of mercury as yet undeveloped exists in the WSA. A sizeable claim block area occurs here and there is a good likelihood that the mineral involved is mercury.

The Iron Hat Mining District covers the northern 1/2 of 406 P. There is a sizeable claim block in the northeast quarter of 406 P.

The strategic minerals identified in this mining district and WSA unit are: lead, zinc, tungsten, copper, and antimony. Economic mineral values identified here are gold and silver.

Regarding local attitudes towards wilderness, the feeling has been almost universal disapproval of wilderness in the Resource Area (PAA page 125). In general, the local people prefer multiple use of the public lands rather than preservation (PAA page 126).

2. Multiple Use Recommendation

Drop WSAs 406P and 406Q from further wilderness consideration.

Rationale

Although the two WSAs, 406 P and Q, qualify as meeting the Wilderness Act criteria for size (greater than 5,000 acres) several cherry-stem roads nearly cut the area 406 Q in half and 406 P is nearly bisected by a cherry-stem road.

Our recreation URA information does not indicate any recreational casual use, i.e., backpacking, camping, hiking--other than the Sierra Club Field Study Wilderness Party which camped overnight and hiked in 406 Q on June 29, 1980.

The main recreational use on the area as identified by public comments and our knowledge of the area is hunting, rockhounding, prospecting, and trapping. Recreational uses are usually not identified or associated with wilderness values.

A major county road (PE 113), the Pleasant Valley/Grass Valley Road, is the western boundary of 406 Q. It is doubtful that the influence of the traffic on this road would not be noticed in the entire western 1/2 of the unit. Also the influence of the areas to the northwest and south would be visible from this area.

Additionally no potable water sources occur within these WSAs, a fact that should severely limit recreational experiences in the area, and there are no attractive outstanding destinations that would attract the wilderness, campers, hikers, and backpackers to these areas.

In WSA 406 Q effective manageability would be limited to the steeper portions (eastern 2/3) as it's proximity to major roads and gentle terrain on the western 1/3 could allow vehicle access all along the western alluvial fans.

There are no distinct topographical features that separate these WSAs from the ranges, both north and south.

If the claim blocks in 406 Q and 406 P are developed under valid existing rights it is doubtful that the aesthetic quality of these areas can be maintained, and therefore the manageability aspects of these WSAs may not be met.

Additionally, both areas have been identified as containing strategic and critical minerals with sizeable claim blocks in both areas. Also the potential for geothermal development in 406 Q may be considered at least moderate as evidenced by leases issued and applications on file for lease.

Also oil and gas lease applications cover 1/3 of 406 Q and a small portion of 406 P (240 acres).

WSA 622 - North Black Rock Range1. Conflict Analysis

622 - USGS has identified this area as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources.

Unit Resource Analysis indicated an inferred subeconomic deposit of uranium which is located in the southern portion of the unit.

A claim block is located in the south 1/2 of section 35, T. 41 N., R. 25 E.

Approximately 600 acres of private land are within the boundaries of the unit. Mostly in 80-acre parcels along Coleman Creek.

A proposed sagebrush control and seeding project area was identified during the planning process, however this proposal is just that--a proposal.

The area has also been identified for intensive livestock grazing with some proposed fences identified in the unit.

"Although the uranium mineralization appears subeconomic, this general area holds a high potential for a significant discovery" (BH-M-14-URA Aug. 1980).

This area is within the Black Rock Wild Horse Herd Use Area.

2. Other Significant MFP Recommendations and Present Uses

A MFP decision was made stating that no mineral withdrawals would be made in this portion of the district.

Currently the area is being used for livestock grazing and includes two allotments, Soldier Meadows and Paiute Meadows.

It is estimated that 228 wild horses are found in the WSA boundary. These horses are in the Black Rock Range West Herd Use Area.

The area is used slightly for hunting. The area is good habitat for antelope, deer, and upland game birds.

3. Obvious Wilderness Values Present in WSA 622.A. Naturalness

Several water-related BLM projects occur within the unit and one fenced exclosure. Several short cherry-stem ways intrude into the WSA's northwestern boundary.

Also within the area a small cabin is located on the private land along Coleman Creek.

One way of approximately 7 miles loops through the southwestern and central portion of the unit.

On the whole, in this unit the works of man are substantially unnoticeable, therefore the character of this unit is natural.

B. Size

29,945 acres are presently classified as WSA with boundary adjustments this area meets the size qualifications.

C. Outstanding Opportunities for

1. Solitude

Due to the terrain and lack of development, the area does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, especially in the drainages.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Good hiking opportunities as well as horseback riding and hunting opportunities are present in this WSA.

Currently the area is used lightly by recreationists mainly in hunting-related activities for big game mule deer and antelope, also light chukar hunting.

Some rockhounding occurs around the perimeter of the area, however, this is usually vehicle-related.

Also the area is under consideration by the Park Service as a desert trail after being proposed by the Desert Trail Association from Burns, Oregon.

The Summit Twin Spring archeological site and the associated hunting blinds along the crest of the range would be an attractive draw to the wilderness visitor.

There are some attractive destinations along Coleman Creek--scenic geologic formations and scenic vistas are impressive.

With the exception of the archeological values, the same recreational opportunities exist as exist in the surrounding mountain ranges.

D. Supplemental Values

Wild horses occur throughout the WSA as do deer, antelope, and upland game birds.

The archeological sites would add to the unit's supplemental values.

4. Manageability

The private land along Coleman Creek could present a significant problem to the manageability if the landowner was to request access to these parcels.

On the western edge of the unit adjust the boundary easterly to the foothills (5,000' contour) of the Black Rock Range.

On the eastern side move the WSA boundary westward to the primary ridgeline of the range. This would eliminate the arbitrary boundary along the private ground and add to a clearly defined boundary.

Should the uranium claim block eventually be developed under valid existing rights, a small portion of the area would be unmanageable as wilderness.

5. Summary of Public Comment

Most public comment regarding this area was general in nature they either supported wilderness or favored multiple use of the area.

6. Multiple Use Recommendation

Although the area meets the wilderness criteria I do not recommend this area for wilderness designation.

Rationale

Although the area meets the wilderness criteria, current recreational use levels are low. There are no known significant recreational destinations within the WSA that are unique. Similar recreational uses can be experienced in many other mountain ranges within the resource area. In addition, the private land pattern presents a significant manageability problem should the area be designated a wilderness area.

WSA-621 Pahute Peak (South Black Rock)1. Conflict Analysis

Oil and gas application (#34142), approximately 10,880 acres, is located in the center of the unit, also application #34144 (600 acres) intrudes into the WSA boundary on the west side.

Five separate claim blocks are located along the western slope of the mountain range, within the Sunset Mining District.

Uranium and fluoride have been identified as inferred submarginal deposits (URA). Existing cherry-stem roads lead to three of the claim blocks.

Existing Range Improvements: 7 reservoirs, 1 BLM project, and 6 non-BLM projects.

One pit reservoir charco--BLM, six spring developments (4 BLM and 2 non-BLM), one BLM windmill, and three miles of pipeline--BLM.

One temporary communication site has been authorized on Big Mountain.

460 acres of private lands occur within the WSA boundary. The unit borders an additional 2 3/4 miles of private lands to the north and east.

Double Hot Springs KGRA is adjacent to the southwestern boundary and 7 hot springs are within the WSA. Two hot springs are along the boundary of the southwest side of the WSA.

Rockhounding remains a high recreational use of this area, as does desert exploring, desert travel in association with retracing historical routes (Hardin City, etc). The majority of this recreational use is vehicle-associated.

2. Complements

A no-lease (geothermal/oil and gas) MFP decision has been made along the Applegate-Lassen Trail. The western boundary of this no-lease area is one mile to the west of the original trail and the eastern boundary runs along the crest of the Black Rock Range through the WSA.

3. Present Use

Livestock grazing - future intensive grazing system proposed.
Wild horse Use Area - 424 wild horses.

Wildlife habitat for - deer; antelope, sagehen, and chukar.

Significant historical setting - Area is on the National Register of Historic Places because of its "integrity of setting," primarily due to the lack of development (i.e., the area visually is the same now as it was from 1846 to 1850 when the trail was in use.)

During 1849 approximately 20,000 emigrants traveled through this area enroute to California. Also visually the coloration of this range is dramatic. Peter Lassen was killed in a canyon west of Big Mountain.

Hardin City is adjacent to the WSAs western boundary. The predominant recreational use in the WSA is estimated to be rockhounding, with historical trail associated recreational use estimated to be second.

From the crest of the range easterly, an MFP decision has been made that would allow for oil and gas as well as geothermal leasing.

4. Obvious Wilderness Values for WSA 621

A. Size

57,989 acres of which 460 acres are private. The area obviously qualifies as meeting the size requirement.

B. Naturalness

Nine BLM and seven non-BLM water-related projects occur in the WSA. Seven cherry-stem roads and five separate ways intrude into the WSA. However, these intrusions are largely unobservable to the visitor. Within this area the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable.

C. Outstanding Opportunities for

1. Solitude

The lack of development in the area as well as the topography, steep drainages, and numerous secluded spots support the conclusion that outstanding opportunities for solitude exist.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area's recreational opportunities, as far as primitive and unconfined recreation, is similar to the other mountain ranges in the resource area with the exception of the historical recreational draw of this area. Peter Lassen was reportedly killed in this WSA, the Applegate-Lassen Trail is near and forms the western boundary of the unit.

D. Supplemental Values

This is a wild horse use area, as well as being used by deer and upland game birds.

The main attraction or supplemental values are the historic association of the area with the Applegate-Lassen Trail, Peter Lassen's murder site, and Hardin City.

Additionally the area is used by numerous rockhounding clubs. This use is estimated to be higher than any other recreational use.

5. Manageability

The western slope of the Black Rock Range could be effectively managed as wilderness. The area does not particularly lend itself to off-road vehicle use and closing the existing ways could effectively eliminate the off-road vehicle use on the west side.

The private land on the east side and the oil and gas leases may present a manageability problem.

6. MFP II Multiple Use Recommendation

The western portion (from the crest of the Black Rock Mountain Range West) should be recommended for wilderness consideration.

A. Rationale

The area meets the qualifications under the Wilderness Act. There is high public use in this area (Black Rock Range) and little or no conflicting resource values.

The high supplemental values of this area, i.e., historic and rockhounding, can be preserved if the area is designated wilderness. The area is representative of the high cold desert mountain ranges.

MFP 11

WSA #019 Calico Mountains and 007 High Rock Lake1. Conflict Analysis

In Unit 019 mining claims occur in three small portions of WSA 019 within the Donnelly Mining District.

This area rated as category B in the multi-element stream sediment survey of the area.

Rating B definitions are:

Shows intermediate to strong responses to more than one interpretive technique--with tungsten, barium, and gold minerals showing a response to the samples taken in this area.

In Unit 007 three small claim block areas are located within the WSA boundary with all claims being adjacent to either the private land or major mining "claimed areas (opals)" that were excluded from the WSA boundary.

Also in Unit 007 two oil and gas lease applications have been filed (N-34145 and N-34141).

On 480 acres of this unit (007) the surface is public but the minerals are privately-owned.

A small portion of both WSAs are identified as being in geothermal simultaneous areas--813 acres in 007 and 593 acres in 019.

The far southern end of WSA 019 is included in the Fly Ranch Northeast KGRA and 480 acres of this WSA outside the KGRA have been leased--lease #N-9623.

Several material sites are located along the perimeters of both WSAs.

The area has been proposed to be leased for oil and gas as well as geothermal in the district's Management Framework Plan.

2. Significance of Other MFP Decisions

The area has been identified for oil/gas and geothermal leasing (MFP III). However, the Fly Ranch Northeast KGRA has been offered for lease and no bids were received.

Along the eastern, northern, and northwestern portions of Unit 007 a no-lease decision has been made to protect the National Register of Historic Places values associated with the Applegate-Lassen Trail.

The WSA will continue to have wild horses and burros, as well as being used for livestock grazing.

In Unit 007 - on the extreme eastern edge vehicular traffic can be seen along the boundary road. Also on the eastern side the Wheeler Ranch is visible from alluvial fans and the Soldier Meadows Ranch is visible on the northern and eastern part of the WSA.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Unit 007

This unit contains several unique attractions, i.e., Fly Canyon potholes, the Fly Canyon wagon slide, and High Rock Lake.

Most recreational use in this unit is hunting-related, associated with rockhounding, or associated with the emigrant trails.

This area (near the Applegate-Lassen Trail) visually appears today the same as it appeared in the late-mid-1800s when the emigrants used the trail.

The area offers good hunting opportunities.

Unit 007 contains good to excellent scenic qualities.

This unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit 019

Donnelley Peak is probably the main scenic attraction in this unit. The lower foothills of this range are highly colored.

The area contains small populations of big game (antelope and deer). Game bird populations of chukar and sage grouse are "fair."

Rockhounding in the unit is currently occurring and probably will remain a high recreational use of this area.

The unit would provide good dry camping/dayhiking experiences, however, I would not categorize the recreational opportunities as outstanding.

3. Obvious Wilderness Values Present

A. Size

Unit 007 - 62,483 total acres with 87 acres private and 62,396 acres public; 494 acres privately-owned minerals/publicly-owned surface.

Unit 019 - 67,671 acres of public land, 0 acres of private land.

B. Naturalness

Unit 007 - Area includes portions of 3 grazing allotments, Leadville, Soldier Meadows, and Calico.

Intrusions are mostly range/wildlife-related and include fences, reservoirs, and spring developments. Most of the above projects don't detract from the area's naturalness.

Several ways and roads intrude into the area.

Several mining areas with slight disturbance could be called intrusions.

Outside influences are the Soldier Meadows Ranch and Road and the Wheeler Ranch Mining Area. These influences obviously don't detract from the unit's naturalness. The unit is essentially natural.

Unit 019 - Range improvements, water troughs, reservoirs, and a fenceline (8.5 miles) along the boundary between 007 and 019.

Several meadow exclosures near Donnelly Peak and several bird guzzlers occur.

Several ways intrude into the unit's boundary. There are some intrusions around mining areas.

The area is essentially natural with man's imprint unnoticeable.

C. Outstanding Opportunities for

1. Solitude

Both units contain outstanding opportunities for solitude, however, in Unit 019 these qualities are found mainly in the area around Donnelly Peak, on the east side of the range, and in localized areas along the west side.

D. Supplemental Values

Unit 007

Historical associated values -

Applegate-Lassen Trail and Fly Canyon Wagon Slide

Wild horses and burros.

Moderate big game hunting

Fly Canyon Potholes

Unit 019

Small game populations

A population of Astragalus oterocarpus listed as "other rare" on Nevada State Threatened and Endangered Plant List.

Petrified wood near north end of unit.

The visual-coloration of this range is very interesting.

4. Manageability

Unit 007

Most disturbed mining areas presently are excluded from the WSA boundary.

Topography of this unit will generally limit vehicular traffic to existing roads and trails. Exceptions to this are along the lower alluvial fans on the west side of the range.

Area can be effectively managed as wilderness with some minor boundary adjustments.

Unit 019

Again topography limits off-road vehicle traffic throughout most of this unit, exceptions are on the far southern end.

Should the Fly Ranch Northeast KGRA be leased. Portions of this WSA could not be managed as wilderness.

With some boundary adjustments 019 could be managed as wilderness.

MFP 11

5. MFP II Multiple Use Recommendation

Unit 007

Adjust the boundary of Unit 007 along its west side to the approximate 5,000' elevation mark or along the break of the mountains. Starting at the southwest end thence north to Willow Creek then continue along the original boundary northward and easterly thence southerly and thence southwesterly to the point of beginning--this portion of Unit 007 should be recommended as wilderness.

Unit 019

Drop the area from farther wilderness consideration.

WSA-CA-020-618/CA-020-621/NV-020-012 Poodle Mountain1. Conflict Analysis

The California-administered portions of this WSA (west 1/2 of this area) are covered with oil and gas lease applications.

Also in the California and Nevada portions of the WSA wild horse management may conflict with wilderness designation.

Bighorn sheep reintroductions have been proposed in this area, and potential conflicts may occur depending upon how much vehicle travel will be associated with the transplants and monitoring efforts.

Major right-of-way transportation utility corridors follow the area's southern and eastern boundaries.

There are significant private inholdings scattered throughout this WSA (3,668 acres).

The area was proposed as a wood harvest area in the land use planning phase and, if cleared from wilderness status, there should be a cutting area established here.

Several decorative stone material sales have been previously authorized adjacent to this WSA and others would have been issued here except for the area's wilderness study status.

There have been several material sites for gravel issued in this area in the past.

Several old mine workings occur in the area.

Numerous roads and ways are found throughout the WSA.

2. Complements

A WSA in close proximity to Reno, which is a major population center.

3. Obvious Wilderness Values PresentA. Size

142,050 acres of public land and 3,668 acres of private land, totaling 145,719 acres. The area is roughly as wide as it is long. It obviously qualifies under the size criteria.

B. Naturalness

The area contains many range improvements.

Fences totalling approximately 28 miles

Six BLM reservoirs

Six non-BLM reservoirs

Eleven BLM developed springs

Four non-developed springs

Several miles of pipeline

One non-BLM well and one non-BLM corral

One cherry-stem road nearly bisects the WSA. It is nearly 10 miles in length and provides the major access in the WSA and to a large block of private land. Six additional miles of road intrude into the area leading to existing range improvements.

One and one-half miles of another road provides access to another parcel of private land.

Approximately 39 miles of way also are found in the unit. Most ways terminate at range improvements or private inholdings.

The area has many man-made intrusions, however, in viewing the area as a whole, the intrusions or works of man are substantially unnoticeable, and the area generally appears to have been affected only by the forces of nature.

C. Outstanding Opportunities for

1. Solitude

The unit's large size, its flat mesa appearance covered with juniper trees does provide the visitor opportunities for solitude when he is away from the existing roads that intrude into the area, or away from the existing range improvements that occur throughout the unit.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

No outstanding or unique destinations occur that would draw visitors to this unit exist.

The area does have a high population of antelope and this is presently its highest recreational draw (antelope hunting). Antelope hunting is associated with good vehicle access on the unit's many roads and ways.

Wild horses, deer, and sage grouse also are found throughout the unit.

~~The recreational opportunities cannot be termed as outstanding.~~

The public comments supporting wilderness designations were general in nature. They mentioned backpacking, natural lakes (actually stockwater reservoirs), large deer herds, and varied terrain and volcanic upland ecosystem, as the area's outstanding values.

D. Supplemental Values

Noble's emigrant route follows along the southern boundary of this unit.

Several prehistoric sites have been identified although nothing too unusual.

Wild horses and burros, mule deer, and antelope are found throughout the unit.

The above values occur in this unit, however, these same values occur throughout the resource area.

4. Manageability

Due to the extent of the private inholdings scattered throughout the area and the slim possibility of the Bureau acquiring these lands, the main bulk of the unit would be unmanageable. The boundaries could be adjusted to include only the major canyon areas to the west.

Should the oil and gas lease applications on the California portion of this unit be issued and if a significant oil/gas find is made in this area, it could not be managed in conformance with wilderness goals.

5. MFP II Multiple Use Recommendations

Drop WSA CA-020-618/CA-020-621/NV-020-012 from further wilderness considerations, also see attached memo dated 4-5-82 from Eagle Lake Area Manager.

A. Rationale

The recommendation to drop WSA-CA-020-618/CA-020-621/NV-020-12 from further wilderness consideration is made for the following reasons.

1. The area presently contains 272 wild horses. A wild horse roundup was conducted in this area in 1979. During this roundup it was necessary to set up traps inside the area that is now the WSA because the area is too big to drive the horses from the interior of the area to the edges. This requires that roads be maintained so that trucks can be used to haul the captured horses from the trap sites. Wild horses are going to be maintained and protected in this area so the facilities for their management will be necessary.
2. There are a large number of range improvements in the WSA and they are widely scattered. Each of these improvements will be allowed under the wilderness management policy. This will require that vehicular access be allowed for the maintenance of these projects. The country is such that vehicular access for range improvement maintenance will keep cherry-stem roads and ways in existence and this will lower the natural character of the area.
3. There is a large amount of private land within the WSA. There is also not a very good opportunity for the Bureau to acquire these lands. These private inholdings make the area unmanageable.

4. oil & Gas lease applications Calif.

MFP II

Augusta Mountains NV-030-108

1. Conflict Analysis

Right-of-way - Utility corridor is within 1 mile of the unit and parallel to the northeast side of the unit.

Oil and gas leases N-32267, N-28822, N-28823, N-28826, N-28825, N-28819, N-28816, and N-28820 run along the west and southwest side of the unit.

The southern end is basically covered with oil and gas leases as well as geothermal leases.

Oil and gas leases also surround and include portions of the unit to the east.

The only portion of this unit not covered by geothermal or oil and gas leases is a strip four miles wide and eight miles long.

Rationale

Regarding the mandatory qualifications of the area, I agree with the original recommendation of the intensive inventory phase which was:

- a. Primitive unconfined recreation opportunities for the Augusta Mountains unit as a whole cannot be termed outstanding.

Lack of attractive destinations.

Low availability of drinking water.

- ~~b. Also the opportunities for solitude cannot be termed outstanding for the unit as a whole.~~

The original intensive inventory report is made an official part of this MFP II rationale, and attached hereto.

Additionally the area may have high oil and gas/geothermal potential as indicated by the number of leases in the area and, if these leases are developed as valid existing rights, the area would not be manageable as wilderness.

Also, the visual impacts of the imprint of man's work in Dixie Valley are of a significant magnitude as to detract from the visitor's sense of naturalness and solitude on the northwest end of the unit.

Conflict

A major county road PE-111 is parallel and forms most of the western edge of the WSA. A long claim block occurs in the Lander County portion of the WSA. The mineral of interest is not known by the Bureau at this time.

2. Multiple Use Recommendation

Drop WSA NV-030-108 from further wilderness consideration.

Rationale

The recommendation to drop WSA NV-030-108 from further wilderness consideration is made for the following reasons.

1. The area has high geothermal/oil and gas potential as indicated by the number of leases in the area and the geothermal development presently taking place on the perimeter of the WSA. If the leases presently held are developed the area will be unmanageable as wilderness.
2. There are very few portions of the WSA that are not impacted by outside sights and sounds. The Fallon Naval Weapons Center stated that they fly over the area several times a day. These supersonic flights definitely effect the area. From throughout the area you can see the geothermal development and exploration work that is taking place in the valleys adjacent to the unit. The agricultural areas are also visible from throughout the WSA.
3. Several minerals showed a strong response to the sampling done in the minerals inventory. The geologic computer models used show that anomalous values exist in several elements and that this area should be looked at for possible copper-nickel, uranium, gold-silver and tungsten-zinc deposits.

*Original Report prepared by
Carson City District*

Way #NV-03-108-208 is about four miles in length, leading eastward from Subunit B to its terminus in Section 27, T. 25 N., R. 39 E., This way does appear somewhat noticeable as a visual intrusion on much of the west side of Cain Peak.

The Battle Mountain District portion has four documented ways totaling about three miles. These penetrate less than a mile into the east side of the unit, and do not appear substantially noticeable, even though they can be driven by four-wheel drive vehicles.

Barbed-wire livestock fences penetrate about 2.5 miles into the east side of the unit, along the Carson City-Battle Mountain BLM District boundary, (Churchill-Lander County Line) and also for about 1.75 miles just west of Home Station. Wells and troughs are located at the ends of Roads #102 and 104. Corrals (barbed wire and post) are located near the water improvements, but these are substantially unnoticeable from short distances. For boundary identification purposes, the improvements were excluded from the inventory unit by extending the "cherry-stemmed" border line around the disturbed area.

The cumulative effect of roads, mines, and grazing improvements in close proximity on both the northwest side (Winnemucca portion) and the northeast side (Battle Mountain portion) causes an overall appearance of having been impacted by works of man. Topography and relatively wide spaces between intrusions and cherry-stemmed roads tend to keep them substantially unnoticeable, as they can only be seen individually by a user on the ground. The Winnemucca and Battle Mountain Districts do not contain many locations farther than about two miles from the end of a vehicle way or a road, however, no natural acreage between intrusions was eliminated for a lack of apparent naturalness.

The Carson City District portion of the Augusta Mountains inventory unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

4. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION

A. Solitude Opportunities

The Augusta Mountains inventory unit contains 94,343 acres that were evaluated for solitude according to guidance in the WIH and applicable Bureau directives.

Solitude is defined as "the state of being alone or remote from others, isolation; a lonely or secluded place." Although some subjective judgments must be made in assessing this criterion, the WIH has established guidelines delineating factors which influence solitude, including "size, natural screening, and the ability of the user to find a secluded spot." Configuration of an area, as well as size, is important in determining a user's ability to avoid the sights and sounds of other people. Natural screening is a product of the interaction between varied topography and the presence of vegetation, resulting in seclusion and isolation. All of these factors are addressed below.

The Augusta unit does have sufficient size to offer some isolation and remoteness from intrusions, however the narrow configuration of the northern portion diminishes solitude opportunities to some degree. The shapes of the Winnemucca and Battle Mountain District portions, even when considered together, are relatively narrow, and are further constricted by dead-end roads, ways, mining and prospecting disturbances, and livestock grazing developments. There are 15 penetrant intrusions along 38 miles of boundary road, for an average distance between "cherry-stems" of about 2.5 miles. The cherry-stemmed roads and intrusions penetrate into the unit from the original unit boundary road an average distance of about 2.5 miles from each side. This leaves a narrow space from the administrative boundary along the Churchill County Line to the northernmost point in the unit that averages only about two miles wide.

The Churchill County portion of the unit has no documented roads or other intrusions to alter its long, oval-shaped outline. This portion, lying entirely within the Carson City BLM District measures about 14 miles long by about 7 miles wide.

Topography varies throughout the unit. From Cain Peak, (at 8,409 feet, the highest elevation in the unit) the mountain drains in all directions via rugged, deep drainages. The most rugged topography is located in the Winnemucca District portion. Favret Canyon and the deeply-dissected bluffs around Home Station Wash are separated by about five miles of steep ridges, high canyons, and broken hills along the northwest side of Cain Mountain. Excellent topographic screening exists throughout much of the Winnemucca District portion.

The northeast slope, or generally the Battle Mountain District portion, is considerably less rugged than the northwest side, but shows characteristic desert mountain erosional patterns, sloping steeply from the ridgetops east to the outwash flats in Antelope Valley. The high concentration of roads and intrusions severely limits solitude opportunities in the pinyon-covered slopes and canyons in this portion of the unit. Topographic relief disappears almost completely along the eastern edge of the unit, as the dissected alluvial fans gradually level off toward the valley bottom.

The Churchill County portion of the Augusta Mountains unit is uniformly hilly, with shallow washes and gullies draining primarily to the southwest from the south side of Cain Mountain. About 1,000 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland cover the slopes above 6,600 feet in the far northeast corner of this portion. The remaining 50,000 acres of dissected, gently sloping foothills are vegetated by low sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and various grasses and forbs. Screening is fair to good when considered in conjunction with the relatively large expanse of dissected foothill terrain. Although the area does provide some topographic screening among the shallow canyons and low hills, the low-growing vegetative cover offers little or no privacy or screening among users less than a mile apart.

There is an abundance of isolated pockets of seclusion, notably on the relatively level summit surrounding Cain Peak and within the steep-walled canyons north of the peak. However, since these features tend to attract solitude seekers, they could easily become overcrowded due to their relatively small areas of influence. Two principal attractions on the northwest slope, the known undeveloped potable springs, are examples of places that offer some degree of solitude, but may provide less than an outstanding opportunity to experience it in a recreational context.

When all factors of the solitude opportunity are analyzed for the unit as a whole, it is apparent that the narrow northern portion has a configuration-size relationship that severely limits solitude opportunities, while the Churchill County portion lacks significant topographic or vegetative screening. This area does possess many of the factors that contribute to solitude, however, the opportunities for solitude cannot be termed outstanding for the unit as a whole.

B. Primitive, Unconfined Recreation Opportunities

The entire Churchill County portion of the Augusta Mountains unit, or that part within the Carson City BLM District, offers only poor to fair opportunities for nonmotorized or primitive recreation activities. With no known potable water sources within this portion, hiking or horseback riding trips would not only have no attractive destinations, but would also be confronted with pack-in hauling as the only option for drinking water.

The northwestern, or Pershing County portion of the unit is administered by the Winnemucca BLM District office. The relatively level area surrounding Cain Peak would be a probable destination point for recreationists, since it is within about two miles from the ends of roads and is an easy hike from any direction with little or no climbing needed. It is also within a short distance of rugged rock outcrops and potable springs on the west slope, and offers spectacular views of the desert in all directions.

Colorful canyons are cut into the steep slopes in the northern end of the Winnemucca District portion. The bluffs, wind caves, and dry washes would offer some interesting hikes for sightseeing or photography of geological formations, wildlife, or scenery. The close proximity of vehicle ways and roads, combined with relatively small areas capable of attracting and sustaining wilderness travel or camping trips, tend to reduce the overall quality of primitive recreation experiences expected within the unit as a whole. The diversity of environments available for recreation activities is fairly good, however, the small, scattered occurrences of destination points or attractive features reduce the opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation significantly.

The Battle Mountain portion of the area consists of those public lands in that part of the Augusta Mountains unit within Lander County. It has been developed for both livestock grazing and mining purposes, is easily accessible by improved roads leading up five separate canyons, and lies along the broad, nearly flat edge of Antelope Valley. Even though it would provide access to the peaks by way of sparsely-wooded east slopes, the few water sources or other attractive destinations would not tend to attract hikers, backpackers, or wilderness campers to this side of the range. There is such a concentration of upslope vehicle routes and intrusions that the primary characteristic

is one of a very confining environment in terms of recreational solitude opportunities, where it would be difficult to escape the influences of nonwilderness activity. Primitive unconfined recreation opportunities for the Augusta Mountains unit as a whole cannot be termed outstanding.

5. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

The only significant supplemental values noted in the inventory unit are located in the Pershing County portion administered by the Winnemucca District office. Scenic values are higher here than in the other two portions of the unit due to steep, rugged rock outcrops on the higher peaks and ridges, and colorful layers and interesting erosional patterns in the steep-walled canyons along the narrow northwest edge of the range. Geological features dominate the scenery throughout the rest of the unit as well, since vegetation tends to appear drab and monotonous, adding little to the area's attractiveness. Wild horse herds and some indigenous mule deer, chukar, bobcat, coyotes, raptors and various small mammals, birds and reptiles populate the Augusta Range. However, no threatened or endangered species are known to occur. There were no cultural values documented during the intensive inventory process.

6. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION

The documented roads and minerals prospecting disturbance do not appear capable of returning to a substantially unnoticeable level without using mechanized equipment. The fences and developed water sources may possibly leave very little visible evidence should they ever be removed, but there would be no need to do so, since these are allowed in wilderness. Some sections of vehicle ways seem capable of rehabilitation if vehicle traffic were discontinued, and if some use of hand tools were applied to recontour tracks.

TO	NAME	DATE	TIME	ROOM NO.
	Ken Walker	4/11/82	10	1012
	Corson City			

Indicate Action by Number

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Necessary action | 6. Note and comment |
| 2. Approval | 7. Note and return |
| 3. Signature | 8. Your information |
| 4. Prepare reply | 9. See me |
| 5. Your comment and return | 10. |

From	Date	Room No.
Brad Hines	4/11/82	
Office		Phone
WMCA		

Ken check this over and if you agree sign the enclosed original signature page and return it to me.

4/23

Send to [unclear]

Ken -

This is a little short & the rationale could use some beefing up, but I agree with the conclusion.

Area Manager in Buell's Mountain District. Ken W

Lenny
[Signature]

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The northeast slope, or generally the Battle Mountain District portion, is considerably less rugged than the northwest side, but shows characteristic desert mountain erosional patterns, sloping steeply from the ridgetops east to the outwash flats in Antelope Valley. The high concentration of roads and intrusions severely limits solitude opportunities in the pinyon-covered slopes and canyons in this portion of the unit. Topographic relief disappears almost completely along the eastern edge of the unit, as the dissected alluvial fans gradually level off toward the valley bottom.

The Churchill County portion of the Augusta Mountains unit is uniformly hilly, with shallow washes and gullies draining primarily to the southwest from the south side of Cain Mountain. About 1,000 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland cover the slopes above 6,600 feet in the far northeast corner of this portion. The remaining 50,000 acres of dissected, gently sloping foothills are vegetated by low sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and various grasses and forbs. Screening is fair to good when considered in conjunction with the relatively large expanse of dissected foothill terrain. Although the area does provide some topographic screening among the shallow canyons and low hills, the low-growing vegetative cover offers little or no privacy or screening among users less than a mile apart.

There is an abundance of isolated pockets of seclusion, notably on the relatively level summit surrounding Cain Peak and within the steep-walled canyons north of the peak. However, since these features tend to attract solitude seekers, they could easily become overcrowded due to their relatively small areas of influence. Two principal attractions on the northwest slope, the known undeveloped potable springs, are examples of places that offer some degree of solitude, but may provide less than an outstanding opportunity to experience it in a recreational context.

When all factors of the solitude opportunity are analyzed for the unit as a whole, it is apparent that the narrow northern portion has a configuration-size relationship that severely limits solitude opportunities, while the Churchill County portion lacks significant topographic or vegetative screening. This area does possess many of the factors that contribute to solitude, however, the opportunities for solitude cannot be termed outstanding for the unit as a whole.

B. Primitive, Unconfined Recreation Opportunities

The entire Churchill County portion of the Augusta Mountains unit, or that part within the Carson City BLM District, offers only poor to fair opportunities for nonmotorized or primitive recreation activities. With no known potable water sources within this portion, hiking or horseback riding trips would not only have no attractive destinations, but would also be confronted with pack-in hauling as the only option for drinking water.

The northwestern, or Pershing County portion of the unit is administered by the Winnemucca BLM District office. The relatively level area surrounding Cain Peak would be a probable destination point for recreationists, since it is within about two miles from the ends of roads and is an easy hike from any direction with little or no climbing needed. It is also within a short distance of rugged rock outcrops and potable springs on the west slope, and offers spectacular views of the desert in all directions.

Colorful canyons are cut into the steep slopes in the northern end of the Winnemucca District portion. The bluffs, wind caves, and dry washes would offer some interesting hikes for sightseeing or photography of geological formations, wildlife, or scenery. The close proximity of vehicle ways and roads, combined with relatively small areas capable of attracting and sustaining wilderness travel or camping trips, tend to reduce the overall quality of primitive recreation experiences expected within the unit as a whole. The diversity of environments available for recreation activities is fairly good, however, the small, scattered occurrences of destination points or attractive features reduce the opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation significantly.

The Battle Mountain portion of the area consists of those public lands in that part of the Augusta Mountains unit within Lander County. It has been developed for both livestock grazing and mining purposes, is easily accessible by improved roads leading up five separate canyons, and lies along the broad, nearly flat edge of Antelope Valley. Even though it would provide access to the peaks by way of sparsely-wooded east slopes, the few water sources or other attractive destinations would not tend to attract hikers, backpackers, or wilderness campers to this side of the range. There is such a concentration of upslope vehicle routes and intrusions that the primary characteristic

is one of a very confining environment in terms of recreational solitude opportunities, where it would be difficult to escape the influences of nonwilderness activity. Primitive unconfined recreation opportunities for the Augusta Mountains unit as a whole cannot be termed outstanding.

5. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

The only significant supplemental values noted in the inventory unit are located in the Pershing County portion administered by the Winnemucca District office. Scenic values are higher here than in the other two portions of the unit due to steep, rugged rock outcrops on the higher peaks and ridges, and colorful layers and interesting erosional patterns in the steep-walled canyons along the narrow northwest edge of the range. Geological features dominate the scenery throughout the rest of the unit as well, since vegetation tends to appear drab and monotonous, adding little to the area's attractiveness. Wild horse herds and some indigenous mule deer, chukar, bobcat, coyotes, raptors and various small mammals, birds and reptiles populate the Augusta Range. However, no threatened or endangered species are known to occur. There were no cultural values documented during the intensive inventory process.

6. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION

The documented roads and minerals prospecting disturbance do not appear capable of returning to a substantially unnoticeable level without using mechanized equipment. The fences and developed water sources may possibly leave very little visible evidence should they ever be removed, but there would be no need to do so, since these are allowed in wilderness. Some sections of vehicle ways seem capable of rehabilitation if vehicle traffic were discontinued, and if some use of hand tools were applied to recontour tracks.

JUN 16 1 43 PM '82

1. Conflict Analysis

Right-of-way - Utility corridor is within 1 mile of the unit and parallel to the northeast side of the unit.

Oil and gas leases N-32267, N-28822, N-28823, N-28826, N-28825, N-28819, N-28816, and N-28820 run along the west and southwest side of the unit.

The southern end is basically covered with oil and gas leases as well as geothermal leases.

Oil and gas leases also surround and include portions of the unit to the east.

The only portion of this unit not covered by geothermal or oil and gas leases is a strip four miles wide and eight miles long.

Rationale

Regarding the mandatory qualifications of the area, I agree with the original recommendation of the intensive inventory phase which was:

- a. Primitive unconfined recreation opportunities for the Augusta Mountains unit as a whole cannot be termed outstanding.

Lack of attractive destinations.

Low availability of drinking water.

- b) Also the opportunities for solitude cannot be termed outstanding for the unit as a whole.

NOT 8/3
no problems

The original intensive inventory report is made an official part of this MFP II rationale, and attached hereto.

Additionally the area may have high oil and gas/geothermal potential as indicated by the number of leases in the area and, if these leases are developed as valid existing rights, the area would not be manageable as wilderness.

Also, the visual impacts of the imprint of man's work in Dixie Valley are of a significant magnitude as to detract from the visitor's sense of naturalness and solitude on the northwest end of the unit.

Conflict

A major county road PE-111 is parallel and forms most of the western edge of the WSA.

A long claim block occurs in the Lander County portion of the WSA. The mineral of interest is not known by the Bureau at this time.

2. Multiple Use Recommendation

Drop WSA NV-030-108 from further wilderness consideration.

Rationale

Regarding the mandatory qualifications of the area, I agree with the original recommendation of the intensive inventory phase which was:

- a. Primitive unconfined recreation opportunities for the Augusta Mountains unit as a whole cannot be termed outstanding.

Lack of attractive destinations.

Low availability of drinking water.

- b. Also the opportunities for solitude cannot be termed outstanding for the unit as a whole.

The original intensive inventory report is made an official part of this MFP II rationale and attached hereto.

Additionally the area may have high oil and gas/geothermal potential as indicated by the number of leases in the area and, if these leases are developed as valid existing rights, the area would be unmanageable as wilderness.

Also, the visual impacts of the imprint of man's work in Dixie Valley are of a significant magnitude as to detract from the visitor's sense of naturalness and solitude on the northwest end of the unit.

The public comments received on this unit were very general in nature. While many were supportive of the WSA, none addressed specific values that were unique or outstanding. The mayor of Reno stated that there is a need for wilderness close to Reno and for that reason she supports putting the Augusta Mountains into wilderness status.

MFP II

The Fallon Naval Weapons Center stated that they fly over the area several times a day and that this would hamper one's ability to attain a feeling of solitude or attain a primitive unconfined recreational experience.

Several comments address the fact that the area is near or in a KGRA and felt that the imprint of man destroys the area's potential for solitude.

I concur:

Kenith S. Walker
Ken Walker
Lahontan Resource Area Manager
Carson City District

7-6-82
Date

Neil D. Talbot
Neil Talbot
Shosone-Eureka Resource Area Manager
Battle Mountain District

8/3/82
Date

MemorandumDEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Susanville, California

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8500 (C-020)

To : Brad Hines, Sonoma-Gerlach Area Manager

Date: APR 5 1982

FROM : Mark Morse, Eagle Lake Area Manager

SUBJECT: WSA #618 - Buffalo Hills

This is an interstate unit and Winnemucca District, Nevada BLM has the study lead in determining whether to recommend this area as a Wilderness Area or not. The following is the Eagle Lake Areas assesment of this area:

1. Conflicts: Wilderness vs Other Activities

The Buffalo Hills WSA is on the eastern most boundary of the Eagle Lake Resource Area. Because of the steepness and rockiness of the terrain very little public use or bureau activity occurs.

- (A) Wild Horses - There is a substantial wild horse population in this area and periodic gatherings will be needed to keep horses in balance with other resources. If helicopter gathering can continue to occur there should be no problem between horses and wilderness.
- (B) Wildlife - This area has been proposed for a reintroduction of Bighorn Sheep. Depending on how much vehicle travel will be needed to transplant, monitor and provide future management there could be a conflict with this proposal.
- (C) Minerals - The west ½ of this unit, in R.19E., is covered with oil and gas lease applications. Depending on lease approval, operational plans, test drilling and whether oil or gas is discovered, a conflict could occur with this activity.

2. Other MFP II Recommendations

The only conflicts here are with the Bighorn Reintroduction, horse and the oil and gas leases. No other recommendations are in conflict at this time.

Bureau of Land Management
RECEIVED
APR 06 1982
DISTRICT OFFICE
WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA

3. Wilderness Characteristics Present

Other than being over 5,000 acres and not having the imprint of man there is little that is unique about this area. It is a typical, rugged example of the Great Basin high desert.

The topography is rugged but neither the vegetation nor the topography is unique. There are no outside influences which would keep this from being a wilderness area.

4. Area Managers Assessment

A. There are few existing rights.

1. Grazing - the area is part of the Cal-Neva Community Allotment with about 10 users.
2. Wild horses exist in substantial numbers.
3. Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the area has oil and gas applications.

B. There is only 280 acres of non-bureau land in the unit.

If this area is designated as wilderness little will change. No range improvements are anticipated and uses other than oil and gas now existing will continue.

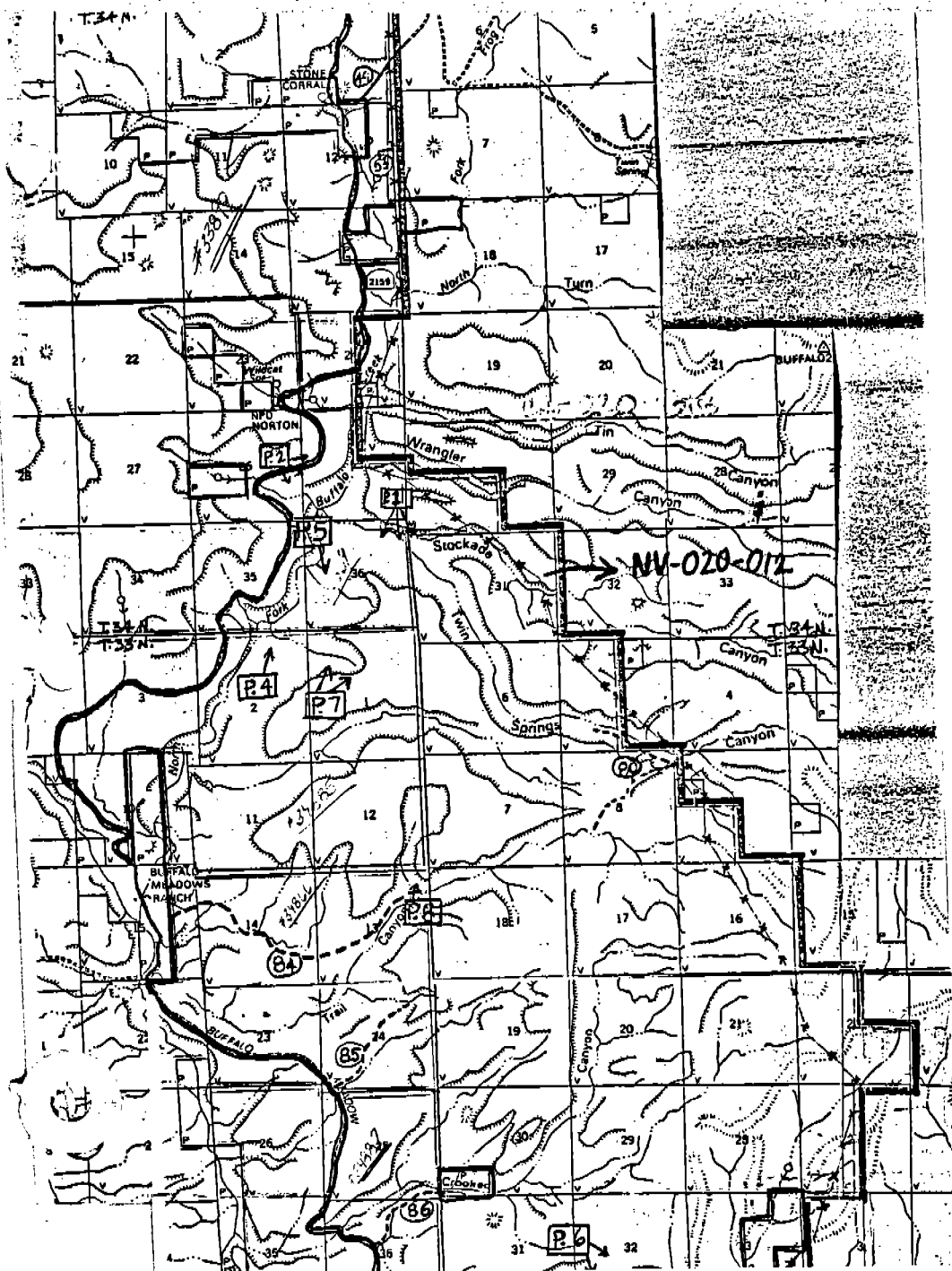
Wilderness designation would not provide better protection for this area. This unit is relatively unchanged due to the lack of accessibility and roughness of terrain. The public do not use this area to any extent now and no major change or increase is anticipated. If this area was not part of a larger complex, Poodle Mountain, there would be little reason to designate it a wilderness.

With or without a wilderness designation, types or intensity of uses will change little.

It would be my recommendation that this area not be designated a wilderness area. This recommendation is only for the Buffalo Hills unit. The overall decision hinges on consideration of the entire interstate unit.

Enclosure
Maps (4)

1/14/54 T. 10000



WASHOE COUNTY

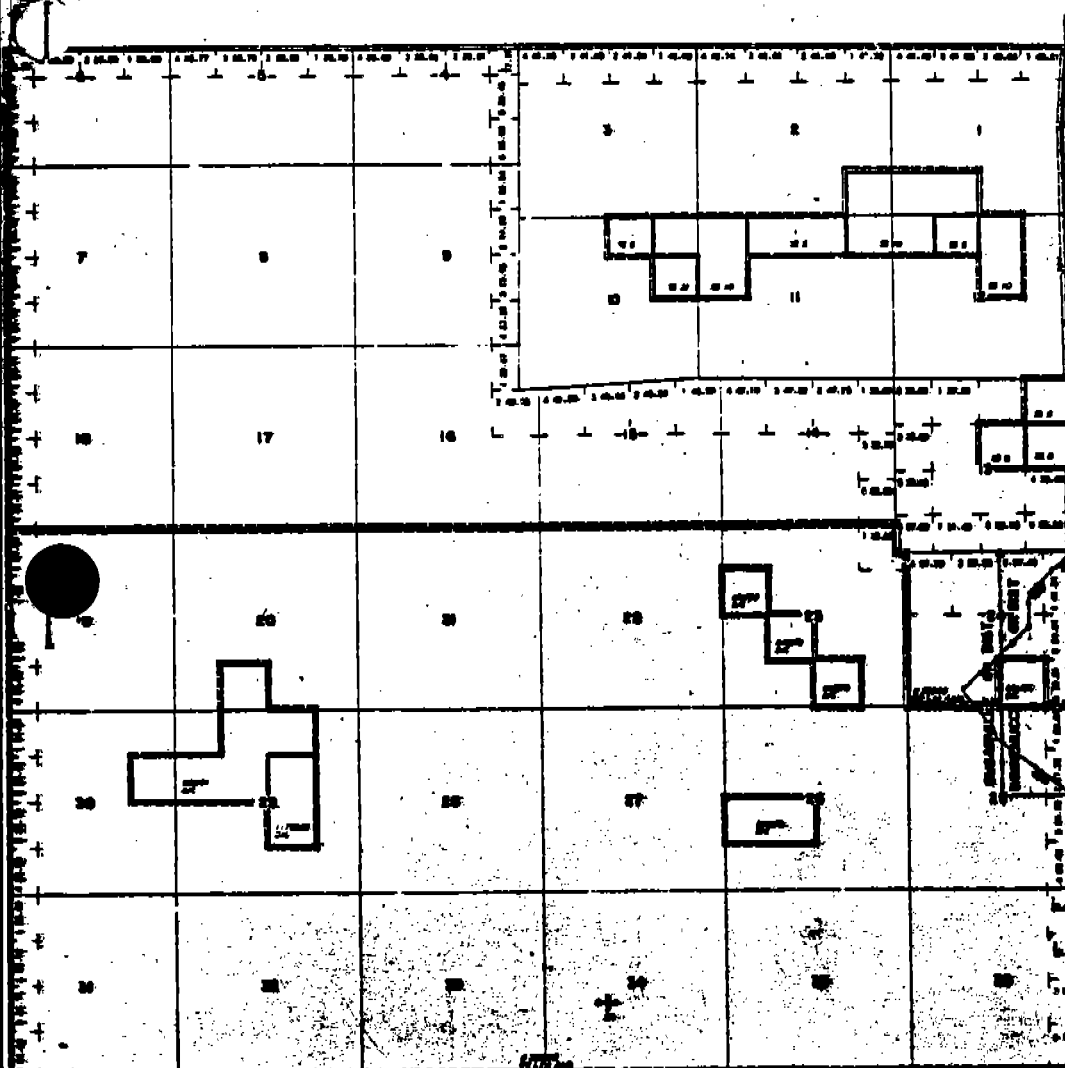
STATUS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LAND AND MINERAL TITLES

DE PLAT

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THE ABOVE EXCLUDED PERSONS ARE NOT OF
AMERICAN BIRTH ORIGIN AND ARE NOT
NATURALIZED CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND ARE NOT OF AMERICAN BIRTH ORIGIN.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 07-20-2001 BY 60322 UCBAW/STP



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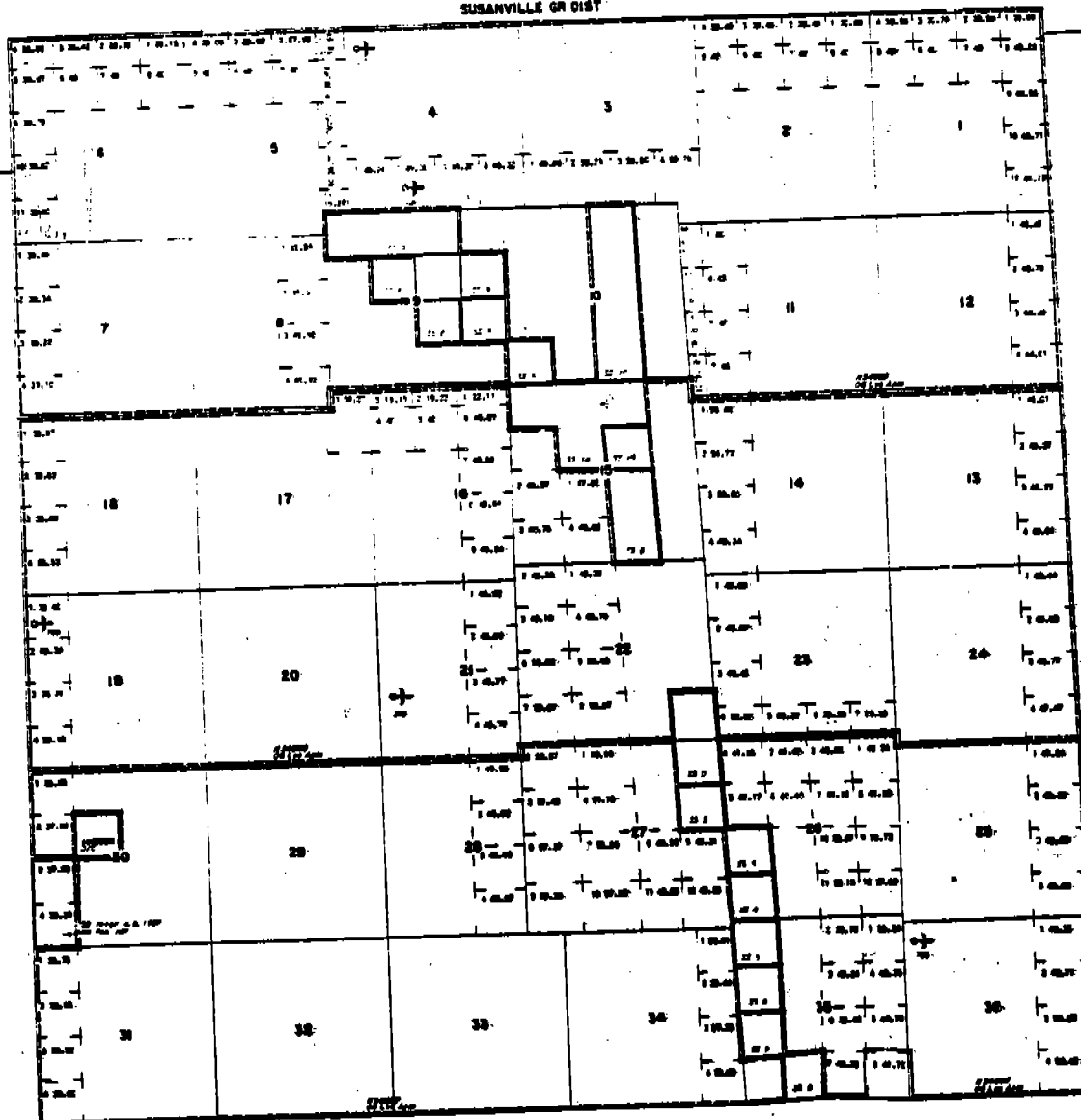
WASHOE COUNTY
SUSANVILLE GR DIST

STATUS OF PUBLIC
LAND AND WOOD

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FOR OCEANS RESEARCH
UNIONVILLE LAND WITH
MINERALS, WATER AND
WATER TO INDEX OF



1. **Let's, together**
1. **Let's, together**

TABLE

REVENUE TO THE STATE

PROTRACTION DIAGRAM NO. 292

WASHOE COUNTY
SUSANVILLE GR DIST

STATUS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN LAND AND MINERAL TITLES

OG: PLAT

[illegible]

FOR CHURCH EFFECTING PURCHASE OF NEW
UNOCCUPIED LAND WITHIN THE CLASS
UNOCCUPIED WATER AND/OR OTHER PLACES
NEAR TO AREA OF UNOCCUPIED LANDS

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Fire
Objective Number	F-1

Objective:

To minimize wildfire damage to life, property and resources.

Rationale:

Wildfire is a wasteful, destructive process. From 1974 through 1978, wildfire has burned over 14,000 acres of public lands within the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area. Damage to resources exceeded \$590,000 and Bureau of Land Management suppression costs were in excess of \$123,000. Resource damage to over 7,000 acres of lands in other ownership exceeded \$580,000.

Eighty percent of all reported fires were man-caused.

The development of an effective fire prevention and presuppression program would help to reduce the number of man-caused fires.

Improving the access into high fire occurrence or high value areas, efficient equipment use, and effective initial attack, and mutual aid operating plans or cooperative agreements would all help to minimize wildlife damage.

Suppression costs and the environmental effects of wildfire are areas of public interest and concern.

FD III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

In the development of the district fire management plan the following areas will be considered for priority protection after evaluation.

Karnak Ridge
 George W. Lund Petrified
 Forest
 Seven Troughs Mining Town
 and District
 Rabbithole Mining Town and
 District
 Scossa-Maud's Well
 Mazuma
 Winnemucca Lake
 Farrell
 Stonehouse-Wildcat
 Nightingale
 Jessup
 Vernon
 Mirage
 Halfway House
 Torrytown
 Arabia
 Tunnel
 Rosebud
 Placeritas
 Poker Brown
 Etna
 Fortymile Desert
 Brady Hot Springs
 Adelaide
 Humboldt Sink
 Goldbanks
 Kennedy
 Rye Patch Dam
 Imlay Halfway House
 Lovelock Cave
 Leonard Rockshelter
 Unionville
 All district study exclosures
 Critical Wildlife Habitat Areas

Bolivia
 Ohio
 Chafey
 Dun Glen
 Neptune City
 Gem City
 Barbersville
 Jacob's Well
 Santa Clara
 Stevensville
 Vanderwater
 Foltz
 Rochester
 Limerick
 Packard
 Panama
 Loring
 Williamsburg
 Buffalo Springs Station
 Buffalo Meadows
 Leadville
 Deep Hole Station
 U.S. Gypsum Mine
 Opal Claim Area
 Cottonwood Mining District
 Buffalo Springs Mining District
 Sunset Mining District
 Box Canyon
 Button Point Horse Viewing
 Area
 Selenite Range
 Cottonwood Canyon
 Seven Troughs Area
 Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural
 Area
 Sage Grouse Strutting Grounds

MFP I Recommendation: F-1.2

Improve legal access into fire prevention problem areas and fire problem Class IV and V areas as defined in the Nevada Normal Five Year Plan. The lands adjacent to the railroads and I-80 from the Humboldt County Line northwest to Golconda and from Winnemucca southwest to Rye Patch are within fire prevention problem areas. Buffalo Valley southwest of I-80 is a designated Class V fire problem area. A land area bounded by Winnemucca on the north, the Sonoma Range on the east, the Humboldt River on the west, and the Pershing County line on the south is a designated fire problem Class IV area. A second Class IV area is located in the Rye Patch - Mill City - Rye Patch Reservoir area. Legal access into ACEC's should also be improved as needed.

Rationale:

Improved access reduces travel time for suppression personnel. Earlier initial attack helps to reduce fire damage to resource values.

Wear and tear on equipment is reduced.

Support:

State Office and District Office Lands; Cadastral Survey; and Access, Transportation, and Rights-of-Way. District Office Roads and Trails Construction and Maintenance.

MFP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the recommendation and rationale.

Recommendation:

Utilize fire suppression equipment to its maximum design capabilities. Power equipment includes two crawler tractors with dozer blades, two Unimog tractors with blades and a fire package containing a tank and pump, and five 4x4 fire trucks with fire packages. Each fire package is equipped to deliver an NH_4 based liquid concentrate for fire suppression. Hand tools include chain saws, shovels, and Pulaski tools. A main function of this equipment and these hand tools is to quickly construct fire control lines. The line is constructed by either cutting, clearing, or "wet lining" vegetation.

Rationale:

By operating equipment at the maximum level, the cost-per-unit of work performed is minimized and fire damage to the involved or affected resources is kept to a minimum.

Support:

Area Managers, District and Area Specialists, District Division of Operations, Fire Control Officer and fire equipment operators.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Utilize fire suppression equipment to its maximum design capabilities with the following restrictions:

1. Use fire retardant with discretion and heavy equipment to the minimum in mountain mahogany stands.
2. Fire lines will not be constructed by heavy equipment in riparian stream zones.
3. Avoid where possible the application of fire retardant to waters and riparian zones. Wherever possible do not use fire retardant within 1/4-mile of any waters.
4. Fire lines will not be constructed by heavy equipment on the south face of the Black Rock Range along the Applegate-Lassen Emigrant Trail or near the following cultural or historic sites which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hardin City
Peter Lassen's grave - Clapper Canyon
Rye Patch Archeological District

5. A resource advisor will be appointed for the resource area. Until a district fire management plan is approved, no heavy equipment will be used on any fire until either the area's resource advisor or the area manager has been consulted. Whenever possible the resource advisor will locate fire lines to minimize impact.